COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Orders Reductions In FY67 Federal Spending

President Johnson has directed that lower-priority federal programs be reduced by $1.5 billion in FY67 because "costs of the Vietnam conflict are uncertain, if this conflict extends beyond the current fiscal year."

Mr. Johnson said he was prepared to defer and reduce federal expenditures in the following manner:

- "by requesting appropriations for federal programs at levels below those now being authorized by Congress:
- by withholding appropriations provided above my budget recommendations whenever possible, and;
- by cutting spending in other areas which have significant fiscal impact in 1967."

The President outlined this program of action in his Sept. 8 message to Congress about the performance of the American economy, the bulk of which pertained to such matters as taxes, prices, the interest rate, inflation and tight money.

He prefaced his remarks concerning the actions taken by saying "further longer-range actions may prove necessary to maintain balanced growth and finance the defense of Vietnam."

"But we will not have the necessary facts about FY67 expenditures until the Congress completes action on the remaining eight appropriations bills, and until the Department of Defense knows the size of the supplemental appropriations needed to support our men in Vietnam."

Army Awards Contract Continuing Nike-X Research, Development, Tests

The Army has awarded a $256,581,512 contract to Western Electric Company for continued research, development, and testing of the Nike-X Missile Defense System.

WEC is prime contractor for the system. Several thousand firms in nearly every state are expected to share in the contract awards as sub-contractors and vendors.

The cost-plus-incentive fee contract covers work from Oct. 1, 1966 until Sept. 30, 1967. It does not include money for production or deployment of the system.

WHITE ELEPHANT ORDER—Adm. U. S. G. Sharp, Commander in Chief, Pacific, is congratulated by Prime Minister of Thailand, Thanom Kittikachorn, after receiving the highest award Thailand can give a non-citizen. Adm. Sharp received "Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, First Class" for his "remarkable success in the organization, management and direction of all ground, naval and air forces in the Pacific area in their activities and operation on behalf of the Free World."

Defense Department Reports On Status of F-111 Fighter

First delivery of F-111A multi-purpose fighters to combat forces will be made next year, according to a Defense Department statement that said production of the Air Force version is on schedule.

As for the Navy version, F-111B, the statement notes that there is an admitted weight problem. However, this is not necessarily restricting the airplane for carrier use.

The F-111B is scheduled to become operational in early 1970.

F-111A will assure continued modernization of the Air Force operational inventory.

Concerning operational aspects, DOD said F-111A aircraft have made 77 flights at speeds of Mach 2 or above, including one flight at Mach 2.5.

Also, in the critical factors of range, payload, speed and versatility, the F-111A will be superior in its class to any other tactical weapon system in the world.

Clarifying performance with regard to the FB-111, the strategic bomber version of the F-111, the statement explains that on a typical non-nuclear mission both the B-52D and the FB-111 require a single tanker for aerial refueling.

Washington Memos

20TH UNESCO ANNIVERSARY to be celebrated Nov. 4 has already been hailed by Presidential proclamation that underscores human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was cited for having "a critical role to play in bringing educational techniques of the developed world to the newly emerging nations of man's family."

SENIOR MILITARY AND civilian students from Latin America and U.S. are attending sixth class of the Inter-American Defense College, Ft. Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. Course of studies at college encompasses world economic, political and military factors that influence Inter-American Defense. Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Van Natta (USA-ret.), first director of college, addressed new class.

OFFICIALS AT McGUIRE AFB caution that there is critical shortage of billets there and ask passengers not to report there prior to time specified in their port call instructions.

C-5A IS NO beauty but the all-jet airlifter of the future, now in mock-up, is described as looking like a workhorse, with a cargo compartment about a third of a football field long. Fuselage width of 19 feet and height of 13.5 feet put it on the stout side, but this roominess should accommodate 98 percent of bulky equipment used by ground forces.

MEDAL OF HONOR winner Lt. Charles Q. Williams is in Vietnam on a Special Forces recruiting program. On temporary duty from Ft. Bragg, N.C., where he is attached to John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare, Lt. Williams is seeking "experienced and qualified people who are rotating back to the States to go into Special Forces."

OVER LABOR DAY weekend 29 American servicemen died in Vietnam. For the same period, 614 Americans died on this country's highways in automobile accidents. Last year, 50,000 Americans were killed on streets and highways. The tragic totals have mounted every year.

SEVENTH FLEET HAS beefed up its forces since USS Maddox was attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin, Aug. 2, 1964. Since then 50 more ships, 150 more aircraft and 15,000 more Navymen and Marines have been added. This excludes forces assigned ashore in the Republic of Vietnam.

MILITARY LIFE INSURANCE, Servicemen's Group Life Insurance and other previous insurance plans from World War II and Korean Conflict are fully documented in a new Armed Forces Information and Education pamphlet entitled Armed Forces Life Insurance Counselor's Guide, Supplement No. 1. Identification numbers are: DoD PA-9, DA Pam 360-517-1, NAVPERS 15212 Sup-1, AFP 34-1-7A, NAVMC 1195 (Rev 65) Sup-1.

NAVY'S NEWEST DESTROYER type, USS Bradley, is first ship of DE-1040 class to fire her guns in combat. In two-day period Bradley fired 197 rounds against three enemy positions.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON Army aviation in RVN is scheduled for Army Aviation Association of America annual meeting, Oct. 12-14, Washington, D.C. Featured panelist is Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, former CG, 1st Cav Div (Airmobile) and present Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development. Another agenda item will be awards presentation to outstanding aviator, aviation soldier of year, and aviation unit.

NINETY-FIVE CADETS and 11 officers from Royal Air Force College at Cranwell, England, visited their counterparts at U.S. Air Force Academy, Sept. 10-15. Annual trip includes briefing from Academy officials and visits to NORAD, Ft. Carson, the Royal Gorge and Colorado Springs.

NIMBUS II SATELLITE is suffering from a "space" cold. NASA reports TV tape recorder aboard is frozen with little chance it will record again. Advanced Vidicon Camera System (AVCS) is still operating and sending cloud cover pictures while in range of North American receiving stations. But weather pictures from other parts of world cannot be recorded and therefore received when NIMBUS orbits over its home station.

MR. PHILIP MORAVEC, Army project engineer, presented made-in-Ireland shillelaghs to Army Armor Board members. Irish war clubs signified completion of rugged Sheridan-Shillelagh weapons system testing by five-man team at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. New missile-tank combination was tested against stationary and moving targets.

TAC's FOURTH AIR Commando Sq. has completed 15,000 accident free combat flying hours and logged 3,461 missions since arriving in Vietnam last December. The 4th ACS was specifically trained in counter-insurgent operations by TAC's 1st Air Commando Wing at Eglin AFB, Fla.

NAVY LAUNCHED NUCLEAR powered attack submarine Pargo on Sept. 17 at Groton, Conn. Principal speaker was RAdm David B. Bell, USN, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower). She is second U. S. submarine to bear name. The World War II Pargo was struck from Navy Register in June 1960.

AIR EVACUATION PIONEER retired Maj. Gen. David N. W. Grant has living memorial at Travis AFB, Calif., as Air Force has named hospital there in his honor. Former Air Surgeon of Army Air Forces is credited with conceiving the idea of mass air evacuation of wounded during World War II.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Senate Hears Testimony On AF Officer Promotion

"Equitable promotion opportunity for Air Force officers" was the overall subject of Sept. 7 testimony before an approving Senate Armed Services Committee. Two Air Force officials called for permanent authority to exceed present Air Force quotas for the ranks of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel.

Air Force Under Secretary Norman S. Paul testified the bill under consideration (H.R. 15005) was "designed to resolve, for the forseeable future, the persistent Air Force promotion problem which has been considered by the committee five times during the last seven years."

He said that the Officer Grade Limitation Act was reasonable when enacted in 1954 but that it became restrictive by 1959, resulting in recurring temporary legislative relief.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell testified he found it extremely difficult "to explain to our able young captains who have proven beyond doubt their capability in a combat theater why they must wait up to four years later than their classmates in the Army and the Navy."

The General said the bill will permit the Air Force to consider for the first time promotions of captains with 10 years service.

The Senate version of the bill would allow for 9,500 additional majors during the first year, 7,917 the second, with decreasing annual increments until the final six-year overage for majors totalled only 1,585.

Navy, Marine Helicopter Modification Begun to Facilitate Jungle Rescue

A high priority program has been initiated to modify Navy and Marine Corps helicopters to rescue personnel from heretofore inaccessible jungles in Southeast Asia.

Naval Air Systems Command said the program consists of modification of helicopter rescue system hoist drums to accommodate at least 200 feet of cable in lieu of 100 feet presently used.

Delivery of modification kits has been made to some Fleet squadrons, officials said, and will be provided for all utility-type helicopters operating in the Vietnam theater.

It was noted that the 100-foot cable was adequate for rescues at sea and evacuation of some personnel from perilous positions on land. However, officials said it became apparent during early Southeast Asia operations that the 100-foot length would not reach to the floor of tall jungle forests.

NETHERLANDS AWARD—Lt. Col. Robert Cranston, USA, Officer-in-Charge, Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, Los Angeles, Calif., receives the Netherlands National Tourist Office Award of Merit from the Netherlands' Los Angeles Consul General Hendrik Menke. Col. Cranston, first American to receive the award, was cited for creating good will between U.S. armed forces and Europeans during a recent tour as chief of the American Forces Network.

President Johnson Issues Veterans Day Proclamation

"We have set aside one day of the year to honor the dead and the living whose actions have testified to their courage and devotion to country," President Johnson said in his Veterans Day, 1966 proclamation.

By an Act of Congress May 13, 1938, Nov. 11 was designated as a legal holiday to be known as Veterans Day, and was dedicated to the cause of world peace.

"We have preserved our freedom only through the continued willingness of brave men and women to risk the sacrifice of their lives for its sake," the President stated.

He continued, "We honor those who wore that uniform in days past, and those who wear it today. Especially this year our thoughts go out to the hundreds of thousands who are resisting the forces of aggression and violence in Vietnam.

"We can never repay our debt to them, for it is beyond price. But we can show our recognition to the gift they have made their country. We can pay tribute to the nobility of man, as it is expressed in a soldier's courage."

The President called upon the people of the Nation to pledge "our full support to the men and women of today who are continuing the struggle for freedom and peace for which so many have fought and died."

Instructions, Deadlines Issued for Overseas Mailing at Christmas

Deadlines and instructions for insuring delivery of Christmas gifts to armed forces personnel and friends overseas have been set by the Post Office and Defense Departments.

Mailing of overseas parcels by regular postage should be between Oct. 21 and Nov. 10. Air mail parcels should be mailed no later than Dec. 10.

Parcels addressed to servicemen in Vietnam that weigh no more than five pounds and measure no more than 60 inches in length and girth combined may be mailed at the ordinary postage rate, officials said. These parcels will be transported by air on a space-available basis from San Francisco.

It was noted, "There are no present plans for a special Department of Defense airlift of bulk collections of Christmas gifts for servicemen in Vietnam this year."

Officials explained that senders must address packages correctly and legibly, using the appropriate five-digit APO or FPO number as part of the address.

"Mail intended for an unspecified addressee will not be accepted," officials said. Mail for servicemen must be addressed to a named individual or to a specific military unit.

DOD requests that mail not be sent to the Pentagon for armed forces personnel serving overseas.

Navy, Coast Guard Conduct Ocean Survey

The Naval Oceanographic Office and U.S. Coast Guard are conducting an oceanographic and geophysical survey of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between Iceland, Jan Mayen and Spitsbergen.

Officials said results of the cooperative scientific study will be of interest to the international oceanographic community and the overall accomplishment is expected to provide valuable geophysical and bathymetric knowledge.

It is expected the survey will be completed in late September.

THUNDERCHIEF PILOT—Air Force 1st Lt. Thomas A. Gibbs is tagged with a patch signifying completion of 100 missions over Viet Nam. Gibbs is one of the youngest AF pilots to hit that mark.

AF Resident Training Termed 'Advantageous'

The first Air Force resident training course, using the principles of programmed learning, has proved to be advantageous and time-saving to students.

Use of the "self-teaching" method was integrated recently into the resident technical training program at Amarillo AFB, Texas, as part of an Administrative Specialist Course.

Results show that training time has been reduced an average of 11 days per student, and performance is equal to or better than that achieved in the previous conventional eight-week course.

The new course uses a variety of instructional material, such as slides, taped lessons, and programmed texts.

As students use the materials to teach themselves, instructors are free to give guidance and help to individual students, officials explained.

It was noted that other technical courses are being analyzed for use of the "self-teaching" method.

"A high degree of student interest and motivation has resulted" from the initial course, officials said.

Defense Communications Officials Meet Sept. 20

Army, Navy and Air Force field commanders of the Defense Communications Agency will meet at DCA Hq., Arlington, Va., Sept. 20-23, to exchange information on the Defense Communications System, National Military Command System, and Defense Satellite Systems.

Theme of the conference, announced by Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird, USA, Director of DCA, is "Progress and a Look at the Future."

Conferees will hear reports on the integration of AUTOVON (Automatic Voice Network) and AUTODIN (Automatic Data Network) into a worldwide communications system.

A DCA spokesman said, "The Defense Communications Satellite System, now in a research and development stage, will also be integrated into the overall communications system later."

The conferees will also hear firsthand reports on communications support in South Vietnam.

Aberdeen Lab Joins Eclipse Study Project

The Ballistic Research Laboratories of Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., will take part in a project to study the upper atmosphere during a total eclipse Nov. 12. The eclipse will be visible in areas of the southern portion of the Western Hemisphere.

The Army project, part of a joint U.S.-Brazilian effort, will be located near Rio Grande, Brazil.

Ballistic Research Laboratories' objective will be measurement of negative and positive ion density in relation to altitude and time during the eclipse.

According to project officials, the eclipse offers unique opportunity to acquire information concerning behavior of the upper atmosphere when solar radiation is greatly reduced.

The eclipse provides one of the best available circumstances under which changes in the atmosphere can be measured.

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